

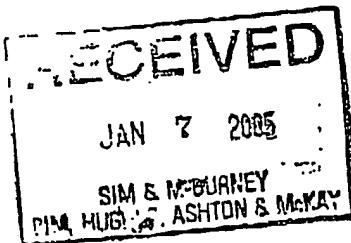


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January 4, 2005

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Application No. : 2,292,824
Owner : PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS CO., LTD.
Title : IMAGE DATA COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE AND METHOD
Classification : H04N-1/32
Your File No. : 9116-72MIS:II
Examiner : Gilbert Jean

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF A REQUISITION BY THE EXAMINER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION 30(2) OF THE PATENT RULES. IN ORDER TO AVOID ABANDONMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 73(1)(A) OF THE PATENT ACT, A WRITTEN REPLY MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ABOVE DATE.

This application has been examined taking into account applicant's correspondence received in this office on July 5, 2004.

The number of claims in this application is 5.

The search of the prior art has revealed the following:

References applied

European Patent Office Patents
 801,492 □ Oct. 15, 1997
 812,100 □ Dec. 10, 1997

H04N 1/00
H04N 1/00

Toyoda
Ishibashi et al.

citation stemming from a foreign search report

Toyoda discloses an electronic mail system connected to a network which includes a section for converting an image of a document surface into a document image data. The system comprises a section to convert the received image data into a received image data of a given facsimile format.

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- 2 -

2,292,824

Ishibashi et al. disclose a communication terminal device with both facsimile communication function and electronic mail transmission. The transmission side also transmits by facsimile a transmission notification which indicates the transmission of the electronic mail.

Obviousness

The cited references disclose the characteristics of the claimed apparatus as set forth in the claims: An image data communication apparatus connected to an image data source and to a network, and transmitting the image data attached to an e-mail to a receiving apparatus via the network which comprises among other components, a controller configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user whereby opening of the attached image data is not required to determine the information regarding identification of the user. Toyoda teaches an electronic mail system connected to a network where the analyzed character sequence indicates registration of a destination mail address, registering sender ID information in a subsequent character sequence and a plurality of destination mail addresses while providing a correspondence relation between the sender ID information and the destination mail addresses. The system receives the sender ID information during mail transmission when the sender ID information is equal to the registered sender ID information (column 2, lines 45 to 56). *Ishibashi et al.* teach a communication terminal device in which data of the user name of the communication terminal device, user ID for logging onto the internet, password, internet e-mail address and provider classification are recorded in the user (sender) table. Each of the above data can be recorded for each user and the system selects the data that is possible to send at time of transmission. When a single provider has a plurality of telephone lines, each of the above data can be recorded for each telephone number and the necessary data may be selected at times of transmission.

Claim 1 recites an image data communication apparatus where a controller is configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user whereby opening of the attached image data is not required to determine the information regarding identification of the user. Toyoda discloses a system in which a sender ID information is received during mail transmission and where the sender ID information is equal to the registered sender ID information (column 2, lines 50 to 54). *Ishibashi et al.* teach a communication device where the user ID, internet e-mail address and provider classification can be recorded for each telephone number and where the necessary data may be selected at times of transmission (page 4, line 54). An automation of the selection of the ID information does not render an application inventive. Whether or not the registered ID information is transferred or stored concerns the rules of programming, new rules of programming applied to a known method or system are not considered as distinctive or

- 3 -

2,292,824

tangible inventive characteristics. Claim 1 is found to be obvious to a person skilled in the art of image processing.

The remaining claims of the current application do not add any new inventive characteristics above claims 1. Therefore, claims 2 to 5 are also obvious.

Therefore, claims 1 to 5 do not comply with section 28.3 of the Patent Act. The subject matter of these claims would have been obvious on the claim date to a person skilled in the art or science to which they pertain having regard to *Toyoda* or *Ishibashi et al.*

Indefiniteness

Claims 1 and 5 present that it "is not required to determine the information regarding identification of the user." However, the claimed method does not depict the steps to achieve the desired result.

The inclusion of "mail from command" causes ambiguity. The term present in both claims has no signification.

Therefore, claims 1 and 5 are indefinite and do not comply with subsection 27(4) of the Patent Act.

A statement in an application, such as found on page 1, line 8, which incorporates by reference any other document, does not comply with subsection 81(1) of the Patent Rules.

The typographical at claim 1, line 4 where a space is missing between the terms "image and data" should be corrected.

In view of the foregoing defects, the applicant is requisitioned, under subsection 30(2) of the Patent Rules, to amend the application in order to comply with the Patent Act and the Patent Rules or to provide arguments as to why the application does comply.

Under section 34 of the Patent Rules, any amendment made in response to this requisition must be accompanied by a statement explaining the nature thereof, and how it overcomes each of the above objections.

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